

HAPPENINGS

Weekly Edition
October 11, 2024

Hurricane Milton Blasts Central Florida & Brevard

Aided by a system that blew in from the Pacific and across Mexico, Hurricane Milton reached wind speed above 185 mph as it crossed the Gulf of Mexico before touching land near Siesta Key on Florida's central west coast, the National Hurricane Center said.

Thankfully, Milton had sustained winds of "only" 120 mph at landfall. As the storm crossed, it launched a stream of tornadoes across the state and its strength diminished to Category 1 as it continued eastward until finally blowing through Port St. John and exiting near Cape Canaveral. We did get to spend some eerily quiet time in the eye of the hurricane in the early a.m. hours.

In Port St. John, traffic lights were out at the Fay Blvd./Carole Ave. intersection and the Grissom Pkwy./Kings Hwy. intersections, and oddly the light at Homestead Ave./Fay Blvd. had one light dangling while the others were all showing red lights... both directions.

More than 3.3 million customers were without power in Florida and power was out to more than 115,000 FPL customers in Brevard County early Thursday, according to utility tracker PowerOutage.us. FPL has a small army of their own men and women out working on repairs, and they also brought in linemen and linewomen from other areas to help.

Most of the damage reported so far stemmed from the tornadoes, according to Federal Emergency Management Agency head Deanne Criswell. Sarasota County, where Milton made landfall, suffered the most storm surge, according to Criswell. "The evacuation orders saved lives," she said, noting that more than 90,000 residents went to shelters.

Some 45 tornadoes were reported throughout the day, mostly in the central and eastern parts of the state, the National Weather Service said. They confirmed two tornadoes had hit ground in Brevard County. At least nine deaths have been reported in the state so far, and there's still a risk of more from flooding and/or homes that responders have been unable to reach yet.



PSJ Boat Ramp - docks are underwater



Circle K on Fay Blvd.



Damage in west Port St. John



Brevard County Emergency Management asks residents to report damages from Hurricane Milton at: <https://shorturl.at/s0Cab.nixle.us/FX5BR>

Howl-O-Ween Petacular

Bring your pampered pets, dressed in their very best, to Historic Cocoa Village for a Howl-O-Ween Petacular. The event, free to attend, will be hosted by Tails at the Barkery and will cater to the pets and the ones who love them on Saturday, October 26th from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m., at the Dirty Oar Beer Company in Historic Cocoa Village.

You and your pet can help make the 9th Annual Howl-O-Ween Petacular a “pawpular” success! Get dressed up, catch up with old friends and meet new ones, and help raise money for Mid Florida Sheltie Rescue, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to help with the rehabilitation, fostering and placement of homeless Shetland Sheepdogs.

Pets dressed in their favorite “Howl-O-Ween” costumes can enter the “howlingly” fun pet costume contests which begin at 4:30 p.m. Each contest entry fee is a \$10 donation per pet in advance and \$15 at the event. Last chance to register for Costume Contests is 4:00 p.m.

Costumed Pet Contests:

Best Decorated Wagon or Stroller

Best Dressed Owner/Pet Combo

Best Costume – Large Pet

Best Costume – Small Pet

1st Place Winners will be awarded a \$50 Cash Prize along with a “fang-tastic” Prize Gift Basket.

2nd Place Winners will be awarded a “fa-boo-lous” Prize Gift Basket.

For purchase, there will be delicious food from Bistro on the Go, beverages and Artist Lori Prell will be on hand for caricature drawings. Join us for an afternoon of fun, including raffle baskets, a 50/50 drawing and games of Bingo.

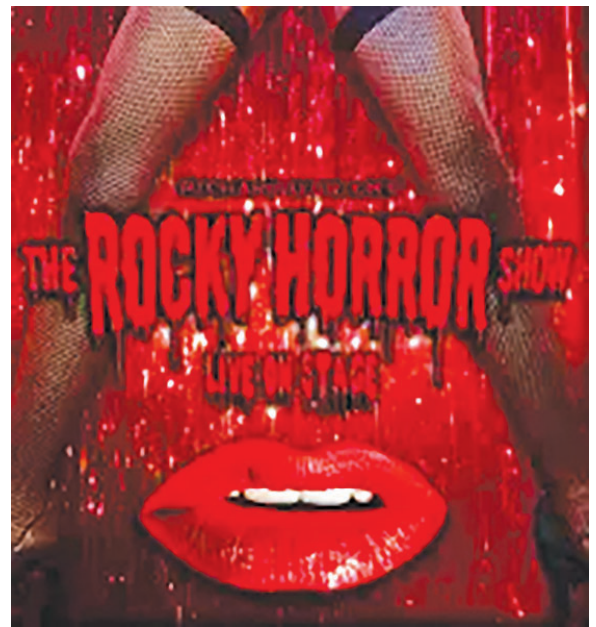
All pets must be on a leash, or in appropriate carriers, and have current vaccinations and county tags for the safety of our animals and friends.

For additional information, directions to the event or to register for the pet costume contests, please visit Tails at the Barkery in Cocoa Village or call 321-305-4584.

Fall Festival

Hart For Horses will be hosting a Fall Festival at The Barn on October 26th, 4-7 p.m. The event will include a DJ, food, crafts, Barn Treating, face painting, pumpkin painting, pony rides, a kissing booth and at 7 p.m., a Movie In The Arena. Everyone is invited!

For more information, call 321-543-2924, email Info@hartforhorses.org, or visit hartforhorses.com.



THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW, LIVE ON STAGE OCTOBER 18–NOVEMBER 1, 2024

The Rocky Horror Show is better than ever- LIVE ON STAGE on the Mainstage! Richard O’Brien’s The Rocky Horror Show, a musical that inspired the 1975 classic cult film, The Rocky Horror Picture Show, follows innocent couple Brad and Janet as they seek shelter at a mysterious old castle on a dark and stormy night, where they encounter transvestite Dr. Frank N Furter, his “perfect” creation Rocky, and an assortment of other crazy creatures. This event is for ages 18+ due to mature content.

Stage 2

Stage 2 is an open-air pavilion with amphitheatre-style seating located at 316 S. Palm Ave., Titusville.

Show times are Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

Gates open 30 minutes before show time. NO late seating or at the discretion of the House Manager.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit <https://titusvilleplayhouse.com/>.

Haunted Trail - Merritt Island

Brevard County Parks and Recreation’s Central Area Operations in conjunction with the Rotaract Club of Eastern Florida State College is hosting a Haunted Trail at Rotary Park, located at 1899 South Courtenay Pkwy., Merritt Island. The event will take place on Fridays and Saturdays, October 18, 19, 25 and 26 from 7:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10.00 for ages 13 and up and \$5.00 for 12 years and under.

Be Prepared to Be Scared! This event is intended as a fright experience and may not be suitable for all children.

All proceeds will support Brevard County Parks & Recreation and local non-profit charities.

If you have any further questions about this or any other events, please contact Delinda Griffis at 321-633-1874 or by email at Delinda.Griffis@Brevardfl.gov

UF/IFAS Expert Shares Pest Control Tips For Hurricane Season

Storms bring more than wind and rain during the Atlantic hurricane season. Unwanted pests crawl into our lives. With electricity outages, standing water and damaged structures, urban pests find ample opportunity to invade homes, businesses and schools.

Johnalyn Gordon, a postdoctoral associate in urban entomology at the UF/IFAS Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center who specializes in urban pests and an instructor at Pest Management University emphasizes that while storm damage is a primary concern, understanding how to manage pest-related issues can prevent headaches and potential infestations later. Here are Gordon's go-to insights on what to look out for and how to manage pests after a storm:

- Rainfall can create breeding grounds for mosquitoes

Several species of mosquitoes in Florida will breed in small containers of standing water. This includes the mosquito species that are vectors for the pathogens that cause dengue, chikungunya and Zika viruses. They don't need much water, so these can include spare tires, plant pots and saucers, bird baths and garbage cans.

Tip: Before the storm, survey your property for anything that might collect rain, and dump water out following rain from potential sources can interrupt mosquitoes' life cycle and prevent them from using those containers to breed.

- Flooding promotes pests on the move

Heavy rains create flooding, signaling insects and vertebrate pests to seek higher and drier grounds. Precipitation drives pests like cockroaches, spiders and rodents indoors in search of a safe space. Floods also cause red imported fire ants to form floating "rafts," which can pose a painful hazard for anyone cleaning up after the storm. The red imported fire ant is a prominent pest ant in Florida, most recognizable for its nasty sting, but takes a unique approach to dealing with flooding. These ants, which live in colonies of tens of thousands of individuals, nest in the ground, and when flooding occurs they will form "rafts" by interlocking their bodies and floating on the surface of the water until they find higher ground. People can encounter these fire ant rafts when cleaning up flooded areas or when rafts come in contact with a structure.

Vertebrate pests like rodents and wildlife can also be displaced by flooding, which can make them more likely to enter a structure.

Tip: Ensure doors, windows and any storm-damaged areas are well sealed to block pests from entering your home or business. Be cautious when dealing with fire ant rafts in flooded areas. After the storm passes, cover any potential entry points caused by damage to prevent pests from coming inside and infesting a structure.

- Don't maintain moisture

Flooding can also lead to moisture problems in a structure, which can lead to pest problems later down the road, Gordon said. In many cases, moisture and pests go hand in hand. One of the primary examples of this is subterranean termites, which will readily target and feed on water-damaged wood. Being aware of potential moisture issues following storms and prioritizing moisture control in the structure is critical to help prevent subterranean termite infestations. If termites are discovered, the best course of action would be to reach out to a professional pest control company as soon as possible.

- Trash buildup can be a fly magnet

In the aftermath of a storm, accumulations of garbage due to service impacts in waste management and often large amounts of spoiled food due to power outages can attract several different fly species, including house flies, phorid flies and fruit flies, which will readily feed on refuse and decaying material.

Tip: To prevent a buildup of flies, place organic waste such as spoiled food in a bag and secure tightly. Then, place in a trash bin topped with a tightly fitting lid until trash can be disposed of or picked up.

- Prevention is the key

When it comes to dealing with pest issues following a major storm or hurricane, prevention as well as quick action following the storm can go a long way to preventing or reducing associated pest problems. "It's important that great care is taken if pesticides are applied and that all label directions are followed, particularly as they relate to applications near water or to rain-soaked areas," said Gordon.

Fall-tac-ular Paws Fundraiser

During the Historic Cocoa Village Fall Art & Craft Festival, on Saturday, October 19th and Sunday, October 20th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., visit Tails at the Barkery for a Fall-tac-ular Paws fundraiser. For a \$10 donation, have your special furry companion "create" their very own one-of-a-kind designer piece of art.

All proceeds to benefit Mid Florida Sheltie Rescue, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to help with the rehabilitation, fostering, and placement of homeless Shetland Sheepdogs. Many of the Shelties are recovering from being neglected, abused or abandoned by people they loved. MFSR's primary concern is placing each Sheltie into a loving, FUREVER home.

All pets must be on a leash, or in appropriate carriers, and have current vaccinations and county tags for the safety of our animals and friends. For additional information, call Tails at the Barkery at 321-305-4584 or visit Mid Florida Sheltie Rescue at www.midflsheltierescue.com.

SpaceX Delays Crew-8 Astronauts' Return Due To Hurricane Milton

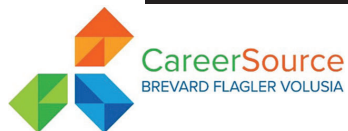
Four astronauts will stay in Earth orbit a few days longer than planned. Crew-8 is now scheduled to return to Earth no earlier than Sunday, October 13th.

NASA and SpaceX originally planned Monday for the departure of the Crew-8 mission from the International Space Station and scheduled to splash down off the coast of Florida, inconveniently an area under threat from Tropical Storm Milton, which intensified into a Category 5 hurricane on Monday before weakening gradually to a Category 3 hurricane on Wednesday before landfall. Now, due to Hurricane Milton, the undocking date has been pushed back several times, most recently to Sunday, October 13th.

NASA officials announced in an update on Monday, October 7th, "NASA and SpaceX now are targeting no earlier than 3:05 a.m. EDT Sunday, October 13 for the undocking of the Crew-8 mission from the International Space Station due to weather conditions and potential impacts from Hurricane Milton across the Florida peninsula. Mission managers continue to monitor conditions, with the next weather briefing planned for 11 a.m. Friday, October 11."

Crew-8 launched from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station on March 3rd in a Crew Dragon capsule carrying NASA astronauts Matthew Dominick, Michael Barratt and Jeanette Epps, plus Alexander Grebenkin of Russia's space agency Roscosmos. Crew-8's departure plans were set in motion by the arrival of SpaceX's Crew-9 mission on September 29. Crew-9's launch was also affected by Hurricane Helene, which pushed the mission's launch back two days.

Crew-8 and Crew-9 aren't the only missions that Hurricane Milton has affected. NASA and SpaceX have delayed indefinitely the launch of the \$5 billion Europa Clipper spacecraft, which had been targeted to lift off atop a Falcon Heavy rocket on Thursday, October 10th.



New Jobs In Brevard

In-Person and Online Job Fairs

Open to the public. Walk-ins welcome! To speed your entrance, create a profile on www.employflorida.com. Bring your resume, meet hiring managers and learn about their jobs.

Veterans Job Fair in Titusville

Have your resume ready and dress for success. You may get an interview on the spot! Walk-Ins are welcome. Food will be available for purchase on-site. Public is invited!

Register today to see the list of attending employers.

Wednesday, October 16, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Gibson Complex & Field

835 Sycamore St., Titusville

Register at www.eventbrite.com/e/veterans-job-fair-in-titusville-tickets-1020547554207?aff=oddtcreator

Annual Manufacturing Job Fair

Meet local manufacturers looking for talent and hiring now. Learn about skills training and scholarship opportunities. Explore Florida Tech's CAMID Facility.

Register today to see the list of attending employers.

Wednesday, October 16, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Florida Tech's Center for Advanced Manufacturing and Innovative Design (CAMID)

2495 Palm Bay Rd. NE, Palm Bay

Register: www.eventbrite.com/e/brevards-annual-manufacturing-job-fair-tickets-102053352237?aff=oddtcreator

Super Tuesday Virtual Job Fair

Register to meet these businesses at: <https://app.premiervirtual.com/events/7fee665b-0e91-4eac-aa37-e0360572a852/october-22-2024-super-tuesday-virtual-job-fair/attendee> and find YOUR next best job!

Tuesday, October 22, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

District 1 County Commissioner Seeks Applicants for Advisory Board Positions

District 1 Commissioner Rita Pritchett is seeking applicants to fill available seats on the following Advisory Boards:

- Audit Committee
- Investment Committee
- Citizen Budget Review Committee
- Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast, Inc.
- North Brevard Commission on Parks and Recreation
- Port St. John Dependent Special District Board
- Fire Safety Professional to serve on the Contractor Licensing Board
- Roofing Contractor to serve on the Contractor Licensing Board
- Contractor Licensing Board (Alternate)
- Transportation Planning Organization Citizens Advisory Committee

Information about each board may be found at the following link: <https://brevardfl.granicus.com/boards/w/cbe4088b3c65a780/boards>

Applications are available on the Brevard County website, <https://www.brevardfl.gov>, and by clicking on Advisory Boards listed under Frequent Searches.

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